(c) whether a Departmental enquiry Officer had held two officers of NCCF responsible for this default; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against those officers, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NCCF have reported that on the basis of fresh investigations conducted into the case, the then Dy. Manager (Imports and Exports) has been found responsible and that disciplinary action against him was initiated which is in progress with Commissioner of Departmental Inquiries, Central Vigilance Commission.

Compensation paid to the victims of train fire accident

614. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than hundred passengers were killed in the Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train on the 16th April, 1990 and subsequently some more injured died in the Hospitals; the exact number of those died in the said fire;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more of the dead and injured are office goers and sole bread earners of their respective families;

(c) if so, whether the compensation of Rs. 10,000/- on account of each dead and Rs. 2,000/- for each injured, as announced by Government are not grossly inadequate and much lower than the compensations paid by the Railways for the victims of rail accidents in the recent past; and

(d) if so, what is the rationale behind these compensation amounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) In the fire accident on 383 Up Mokama-Danapur Pass. on 16-4-90, 71 persons lost their lives on the spot and 3 persons died, subsequently, in the Hospitals.

(b) Some of the dead injured were office goers but it is difficult to establish that they were the sole bread earners of their respective families.

(c) and (d) Rs. 10,000/- paid on account of each of the 17 dead victims and Rs. 2,000/- on account of each of the 18 grievously injured persons, was only ex-gratia payment, not compensation. For the payment of claims compensation, applications have to be filed before the Railway Chains Tribunal, Mahendrughat, Patna. Notifications regarding the procedure for filing such applications have already been published in the newspapers

Enquiry committee's report on the accident of 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train

615. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preliminary reports about the fire incidence in the ill fated 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train has indicated that highly inflamable gas cylinders were being carried in the train which have exploded to cause the fire;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the concerned Railway officials who are responsible for the incident and to impose restrictions in carrying inflammable items in the trains; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Appropriate action will be taken against the staff, if held responsible for the accident, on receipt of the Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety.